

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 15 December 2004 (Paper No. 121104) has been carefully considered.

The specification and Abstract are being amended to correct minor errors and improve form. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 12 and 16 are being amended. Thus, claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 thru 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Mastie, U.S. Patent No. 6,480,866. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

The present invention relates to a method for extending print area when printing with an inkjet printer. As pointed out in the specification, an inkjet printer has a problem that is not experienced with dot printers and laser printers (see paragraphs [0004] thru [0006] of the specification). That is, since printing in an inkjet printer is performed after paper passes through an exit roller and moves to a printhead, the exit roller holds the lower end of the paper to the end thereof and ejects the paper before the set low end margin. Therefore, a large-width lower end margin is necessary, and the printable area

becomes smaller. As a result, documents created by a user can be cut off at the lower end during printing with the ink jet printer.

The present invention provides a method for explaining print area so that cutoff of such documents does not occur when printing with an ink jet printer. That is, according to the present invention, since the printable area becomes larger because the lower end margin of the ink jet printer can be reduced to the level of the upper end margin, documents created by a user, such as CAD drawings, graphics and charts, can be printed without being cut off (see paragraph [0032] of the specification).

Mastie '866 cited by the Examiner relates to a method and apparatus to facilitate creation of documents from individual pages. More specifically, Mastie '866 discloses a method and apparatus for assembling a set of page files into a document file in preparation for printing using a high volume production machine, such as a press which uses plates to transfer ink onto a paper or substrate (see column 1, lines 22-35 of Mastie '866). In particular, Mastie '866 discloses a method and apparatus which solves a problem relating to processing of multiple files and reassembling them into a single output file when preparing to print a document using the complex printing process typical of offset printing and involving prepress operations, press operations, and postpress operations (see column 1, lines 36-44 and column 3, lines 16-34 of Mastie '866).

As a result, Mastie '866 does not disclose or suggest the various method steps of the present invention which are recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11, and which are specifically provided to solve a problem unique to printing with an inkjet printer and not related to printing with high-volume printing processes and machines, such as offset printing presses and the like.

With respect to independent claim 1, the recited method comprises two distinct print steps for printing first and second portions, respectively, of an image. In contrast, Mastie '866 discloses a process of file manipulations (shown in Fig. 5 of the patent and described at column 7, line 33-column 8, line 20) so as to develop a single output file (step 580 of Fig. 5) which is then sent to a printer for a single print step (see column 8, lines 18-20 of Mastie '866).

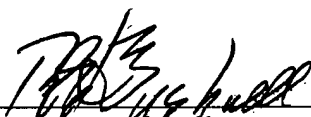
With respect to independent claims 6, that claim recites a process in which two distinct images are individually developed , and are sent individually to the printer in two distinct steps (steps (a) and (b) of claim 6). In contrast, Mastie '866 does not disclose or suggest the development of two distinct images, and the separate transmission of those images to the printer in two distinct steps (see column 8, lines 18-20 of Mastie '866).

Finally, independent claim 11 recites the invention in terms of the separate formation of first and second images which are then printed in sequence by the printer

(see step (d) of claim 11). In contrast, Mastie '866 does not disclose or suggest the specifically recited process by which the first and second images are developed, and does not disclose or suggest the sequential printing of the two images by the printer (again, see column 8, lines 18-20 of Mastie '866, as well as column 7, line 33-column 8, line 17 thereof).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

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I.D.: REB/JGS